

National Weather Service Tallahassee, Florida

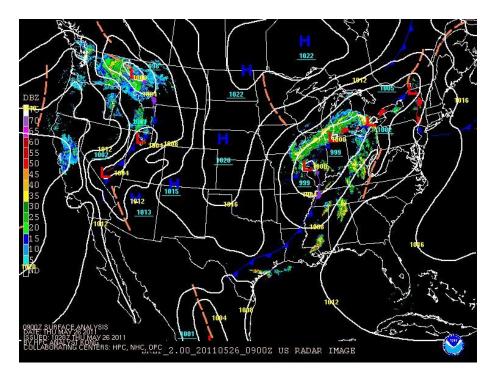


In this update:

Slight risk of severe thunderstorms for Southeast
 Alabama & western portions of the Florida Panhandle this
 afternoon and early evening.

Key Points for this event:

• An upper level disturbance will approach the region from the west today. Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop ahead of this system...affecting Southeast Alabama and western portions of the Florida Panhandle. A few of these storms could be marginally severe.



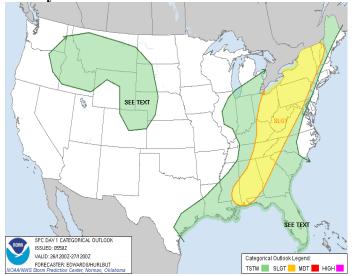
The current weather picture and event summary:

An upper level disturbance will outrun its associated cold front today as the front slows down and dissipates. Strong daytime heating will combine with cooling temperatures aloft to produce an unstable airmass this afternoon. Scattered thunderstorms were already occurring immediately ahead of the approaching upper level system, and some of these storms may enter (or develop) in Southeast Alabama and the western Florida Panhandle this afternoon.

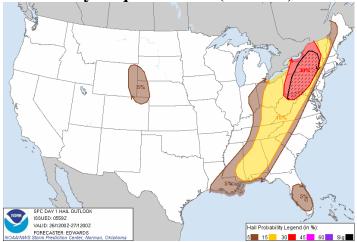
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As the upper disturbance approaches, the winds aloft may become just strong enough for these storms to organize along lines oriented from south to north. The combination of instability and vertical wind shear could be favorable enough for a few storms to become severe. The main limiting factors for severe storm formation are vertical wind shear and the weakening cold front. The shear will be on the lower end of the scale believed to support widespread organized storms. The lagging (and weakening) cold front will make conditions somewhat less favorable for thunderstorm development, so there will not be as many storms developing as there would be if a strong cold front was approaching. The main factor supporting the possibility of severe storms is the moist, unstable airmass expected to develop by this afternoon. Because of these competing factors, the risk for severe storms in only slight. The main threat will be marginally severe wind gusts near 60 MPH, and large hail of quarter size or greater. Conditions do not appear favorable for significant tornado development.

Today's overall severe weather risk:



Probability of quarter size (or more) hail:

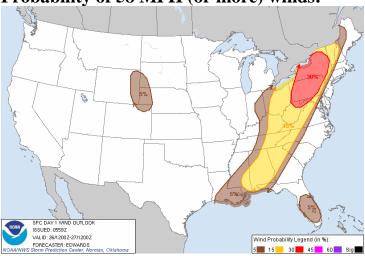


The Storm Prediction Center graphics on the left (and on the next page) show the chances for severe storms. The top image shows there is a slight risk (yellow shading) for much of Southeast Alabama and the western Florida Panhandle.

The image below shows the corresponding probability of severe hail (quarter size or more), which is 15% (yellow shading) within 25 miles of a point for the same area.

On the next page, the image shows the probability of wind gusts of 58 MPH or higher, which again is 15% for the same region.
Remember, a 15% probability sounds very low when thinking in terms of rain chances; but for rare events like severe storms this probability is not that low.

Probability of 58 MPH (or more) winds:



Event Timing:

The main threat for severe storms will be this afternoon and early evening, generally within a 6-hour window between 1 PM CDT and 9 PM CDT. After 9 PM, the instability will weaken considerably.

Impact:

Isolated areas of wind damage are possible. The main impact from these winds would be downed trees and power lines. Isolated damage from hail is also possible, with small cracks and dents to automobile windows.

Summary:

- There is a slight threat of severe weather across Southeast Alabama and western portions of the Florida Panhandle this afternoon and early evening.
- The primary severe weather threat will be damaging winds and large hail. This event is expected to produce more isolated severe weather than the more widespread events experienced earlier this Spring.

The National Weather Service in Tallahassee will continue to monitor this system closely today. If you have any questions, please give our office a call at 850-942-8833 or on our toll free line at 800-598-4562 and ask to speak to a meteorologist. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also reach us on our Southern Linc phone at 1*77*184.